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SECURITY INFORMATION

Assistant Director for Operations

9 September 1952

Chief, Foreign Documents Division

Comments of the DD/I on his visit to FDD on 29 August 1952

1. Source Material

a. In answer to Mr. Becker's query, "What is your biggest headache?", [] stated that he believed his main problem came from lack of a central receipt of foreign documents in the Agency. OCD library catalogs items received by them only by title. This process is often misleading and usually ineffective. Without adequate linguists it is also time consuming causing delays in the receipt of some material. Mr. Becker thought it entirely logical that FDD be the central office for the receipt of all foreign language material and suggested that the matter be taken up with OCD for solution.

[] Sometime ago in a joint meeting in the AD/Os office, Mr. [] agreed that all foreign language material should be received by FDD, but this was never complied with by [] Perhaps the best approach to the problem at this time is at the Assistant Director's level.

b. In answer to the problem of long delays in the receipt of much of FDD's source material, particularly that of southeast Asia and the middle east due to low transportation priorities, Mr. Becker agreed that the situation should be remedied and suggested that the AD/O ask DD/A for assistance.

If higher priorities can be established for foreign documents from [] improve FDD's south Asia reporting considerably.

2. Dissemination of FDD Reports

Mr. Becker did not think the present practice of cataloging and indexing FDD reports by OCD before reproduction and dissemination was necessary. He suggested that FDD study present practices with a view to recommending any practical alternatives.

The problem incident to bad internal distribution in the various offices is an old one. The DD/I believed that the only remedy possible was to strengthen liaison, whereby, specific consumer officers could have their attention called to reports of particular interest to them.

3. FDD Operations

Mr. Becker agreed that research and analysis were necessary techniques in the exploitation of foreign documents. He was told that

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FDD's officers were anxious to do more documentary research in depth in order to report more fully to consumers.

The DD/I suggested that he was concerned about external research projects which always resulted in the improvement of knowledge and experience of people outside the Agency and believed that consideration should be given to the use of FDD officers for directing external research projects in foreign language material. He suggested that these officers might be given such assignments under sabbatical leave, providing replacements for the absentees by perhaps borrowing positions from Training.

4. Mr. Becker outlined what type of FDD reports he would like to see and a watch has been established to provide them for him.

J. J. BAGNALL

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